

Region 2 Project Nomination

Name of person nominating this priority:

Brad Brunsch (One Prospect Technologies)

Briefly describe your priority broadband project.

Due to the growing need and daily use of technology, I would like you to consider providing broadband to our area's students, district staff, appropriate facilities and families as the priority amongst the various broadband project nominations.

What region-wide need does this priority address?

Research indicates that utilizing technology can help narrow the gap between the top and 'lower' performing students. Connectivity allows students who are not being stimulated by the "traditional" forms of education to seek the information they need in order to be successful. By providing the students with broadband connectivity you would be providing them with access to school materials, assignments, and educational materials anytime / anywhere. Connectivity allows students to supplement and further their education by providing online distant learning opportunities and college courses again, anytime / anywhere. Broadband connectivity will even allow remote home school students to be connected / integrated with their local school districts through online course material and distant learning opportunities – a benefit to both the student and the district.

Why is this project realistic and doable? If funding is required, approximately how much would be needed and how likely is it that the necessary funding can be obtained?

I am not familiar with the cost of funding a broadband project to this scale. Funding will need to come from an outside source as the local school district will obviously not be able to self-fund this project. I can see grants being the major provider of funds for this project.

Briefly describe desired outcomes for your priority project nomination. What measures will indicate success?

If all students, young and 'mature,' were able to access their school, university or the internet to assist them with their educational needs, ultimately we would see a higher percentage of graduates, students pursuing careers that they are truly interested in and higher numbers of students enrolling in post-secondary courses.

What existing leadership capacities or existing efforts in the region can support this project?

As a board member of the Rhinelander Partners in Education organization (PIE) I would especially like to see a regional effort to help our students obtain the education that they deserve. The goal of PIE is to promote student success while providing enriched learning opportunities... this is one way to achieve just that and PIE would help support the project.